

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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UNCLAS STATE 120675 TOSEC 010258

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TAGS: PFOR, OASGA

SUBJECT: LATIN AMERICAN MEDIA REACTION TO OASGA

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM RYAN

TOKYO FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

SUMMARY: FURTHER TO BILL ROGERS MEMO TO YOU OF MAY 16 ON LATIN AMERICAN MEDIA REACTION TO THE OASGA, CONTINUED AREA-WIDE PRESS PLAY WAS LIMITED AND FOCUSSED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON ORFILA'S ELECTION -- THERE WAS JUBILATION IN ARGENTINA, TEMPERED DISAPPOINTMENT IN BRAZIL, AND REPROACH FOR THE U.S. IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. THE FACT THAT THE PRESS HAD TO EMPHASIZE THE ELECTION WE BELIEVE WAS THE RESULT OF OUR DEFUSING THOSE ISSUES WHICH PREVIOUSLY HAD GIVEN RISE TO CONTENTIOUS DEBATE. CONSERVATIVE O GLOBO UNDERLINED THIS POINT SAYING THAT UP TO ORFILA'S ELECTION "THE OAS MEETING HAD PRESENTED A REMARKABLE LEVEL OF UNDERSTANDING AND EFFICIENCY: AMERICAN EXPLANATIONS HAD ALLEVIATED TENSION CREATED BY THE TRADE ACT; CUBA NO LONGER WAS A PROBLEM SINCE ALL HEMISPHERIC PARTNERS WERE PROGRESSING TOWARD CHANGING THE RIO TREATY AND NOT EVEN THE PANAMA CANAL QUESTION HAD SUCCEEDED IN SETTING FIRE TO THE DISCUSSIONS."

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ARGENTINA: NEWSPAPERS EXALTED OVER ORFILA'S ELECTION BUT A MONDAY-NIGHT PRESS STRIKE CURTAILED RESPONSE. ON SUNDAY THE MODERATE BUENOS AIRES HERALD SAW THE EVENT AS "CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION." INDEPENDENT CRONISTA COMERCIAL SUGGESTED THAT

ORFILA WAS THE "MAN TO SAVE THE OAS" AND INTELLECTUAL-LEFT OPINION DECLARED THAT "REASONABLENESS HAS TRIUMPHED."

OPINION DECLARED: "THE STATE DEPARTMENT SEEMS INTENT ON SEEKING LEGITIMATE SPOKESMEN SOUTH OF THE RIO BRAVO. THIS IS TANTAMOUNT TO DROPPING A DICTATORIAL ATTITUDE AND FOUNDING ITS DIPLOMACY ON NEGOTIATING IN TERMS OF THE FEASIBLE..." BECAUSE OF ITS PREOCCUPATION WITH OTHER REGIONS OF THE WORLD, THE U.S. NOW PREFERS "THE KIND OF COMMUNICATION THAT ENABLES IT TO BE PROMPTLY INFORMED ABOUT REGIONAL DEMANDS AND THEIR POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS."

BRAZIL: CONSERVATIVE O GLOBO HELD THAT THE ELECTION OF ORFILA "DISTURBED THE ESPECIALLY CONSTRUCTIVE CLIMATE" OF THE OAS SESSION BECAUSE "IT BROKE A TRADITIONAL GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT THAT NONE OF THE 'BIG FOUR' WOULD SEEK THE POST. IT IS TRUE THAT THE ARGENTINE CANDIDACY WAS BORN OF AN IMPASSE. BUT IT DID BREAK THE AGREEMENT AND FOR THIS REASON DID NOT RECEIVE BRAZIL'S COHESIVE VOTE..."

SAYING THAT# NATURALLY, BRAZIL WILL ADOPT A MATURE AND LEVEL-HEADED POSITION IN RELATION TO THE ELECTION OF THE OAS SECRETARY GENERAL, "THE PAPER NEVERTHELESS CONSIDERED IT "REALLY DEPLORABLE BECAUSE AT THIS TIME THE OAS MEETING HAD PRESENTED A REMARKABLE LEVEL OF UNDERSTANDING AND EFFICIENCY.

MODERATE JORNAL DO BRASIL SPOKE HIGHLY OF ORFILA'S PERSONAL QUALIFICATIONS BUT HELD THAT "ONE CAN LEGITIMATELY DOUBT THAT IT IS WISE TO CHOOSE THE REPRESENTATIVE OF A COUNTRY SO IMPORTANT AND INFLUENTIAL" AND THAT THE "U.S. HAD REINFORCED THE CANDIDACY OF THE ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR." THE PAPER CONCLUDED: "LET US HOPE THAT ORFILA WILL CONTINUE TO DEMONSTRATE WISDOM AND IMPARTIALITY IN MATTERS THAT CONCERN THE HEMISPHERE."

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LIBERAL FOLHA DE SAO PAULO REPORTED THAT ORFILA'S ELECTION WAS NOT WELL RECEIVED BY THE BRAZILIAN FOREIGN OFFICE BECAUSE THE ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR MAY BRING TO THE FORUM OF THE OAS POLITICAL DISPUTES WHICH BUENOS AIRES INSISTS IN MAINTAINING WITH BRASILIA IN ALL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS..."

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: MODERATE LISTIN DIARIO ACCUSED THE U.S. OF PERFORMING A "CRUDE MANEUVER" IN BREAKING WITH ITS TRADITIONALLY NEUTRAL POLICY TO SUPPORT ORFILA. IT SAID: "NEVERTHELESS, GOMEZ BERGES HAD MORE VOTES THAN ORFILA AND NEEDED ONLY ONE ADDITIONAL VOTE TO HAVE WON THE ELECTION YESTERDAY...THAT THE U.S. ENDED ITS NEUTRALITY MEANT THAT IT WAS CONVINCED THAT GOMEZ BERGES WAS GOING TO WIN...A

CANDIDATE OF THIS CALIBRE, WHO OBLIGES A GREAT NATION TO
BREAK ITS PROMISE, IS DEFINITELY SOMEBODY. HE REPRESENTS
SOMETHING AND AMOUNTS TO SOMETHING..." INGERSOLL

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